

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/800,456
Attorney Docket: 710240-0004
Response to Final Office Action dated January 27, 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Wada. Claim 1 calls for "an adhesive disposed between said felt washer (18) and said carrier (14), such that said carrier (14), said shaft seal element (16) and said felt washer (18) are unitized". At page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner points to the "rubber material between 14 and 11" as providing this limitation. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion. The only "rubber material" disclosed in reference to Figs 1-5 of Wada is described at column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 14. This "rubber material" is indicated as element G and is molded to form the second seal ring 10 of Wada. There is no teaching or suggestion in Wada that this "rubber material G" is between elements 14 and 11. Moreover, it is clear from the disclosed manufacturing process that the "rubber element G" is not present between elements 14 and 11. Column 6, line 35 to column 7, line 30 of Wada describes "rubber element G" as being placed in the mold, and then being pressed and heated to form the "second seal ring 10". There is no mention whatsoever of element 14 in this section. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 over Wada.

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the allowance of claim 21 and the indication of claims 8-20 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining claims depend, ultimately, on claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. The dependant claims distinguish over their parent and one another by reciting Applicant's invention in greater detail.

It is believed that this Application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is respectfully requested.


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Applicant believes there are no fees due for this document, however, if any fees are due, the Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061 in the name of Dickinson Wright PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,

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